(b) The performance of the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), a registered society under the Department of Electronics is satisfactory. As a part of the design and development of 4000 line electronic switching system, 128 Port Electronic Private Automatic Branch Exchange and Rural Automatic Exchange have been successfully developed.

Decommissioning of Nuclear Power Plants

1984. DR. H. P. SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the life span of nuclear power plants in the country;

(b) what is the projected schedule of decommissioning of these plants;

(c) what risks are involved in this process and what is the strategy worked out for the safe decommissioning of these plants; and

(d) what financial inputs are likely to be required for such decommissioning and what would be the projected recurring cost in the years to follow?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) The designed life of Nuclear Power Plants is 25 years but they are expected to operate safely over a longer period.

(b) These plants will be considered for decommissioning only when their safe operation becomes uneconomical.

(c) and (d) Technology has been developed for safe decommissioning of nuclear power reactors. Some preliminary estimates on costs of decommissioning are available. More precise cost information is expected in due course of time when some early reactors around the world are decommissioned. The current tariff for power from Nuclear Power Stations includes a charge for decommissioning purposes.

Offer of Know-how by France and Soviet Union to manufacture Mirage-2000 and MIG-29

1985. DR. H. P. SHARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether France and the Soviet Union have offered the know-how and have proposed to set up plants in India for the manufacture of Mirage-2000 and MIG-29 aircraft, respectively; and

(b) what has been Government's reaction to these proposals and the rationale behind these decisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On techno-economic considerations it was decided not to go in for licence production of high technology Mirage-2000 aircraft in India. The question of the licence manufacture of Mig-29 aircraft in India is still under consideration.

Baggage Rules for Incoming Passengers

1986. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under baggage rules incoming passengers are punished by charging heavy duties and there are possibility of such passengers against being subjected to penalty under FERA provisions;

(b) whether it is also a fact that any person travelling for business after getting release of *ad-hoc* foreign exchange or under blanket permit can use part of it for shopping; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.